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Every part of the Germain Piano is manufactured in our own factory by skilled workmen. Every instrument Fully Warranted. The triumph in the art of Piano building. Pronounced by all competent judges the Acme of Perfection. We wish every reader of this paper who is using or contemplates purchasing a Piano to investigate the merits of "The Germain."

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### North Owosso Farmers' Club.

The North Owosso Farmers' Club met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Spaulding, January 27. The club was called to order by the president, E. O. Place. After prayer the following questions were discussed:

"What is the best bait for catching fish." Col. Moyses thought silver was the best, although he is not a silver man. Wm. Sawyer Jr., was called on, he being a big fisherman, and belonging to the Owosso club of fishermen, he must of course know. He had one bait—if you care nothing for the law—dynamite.

"How can farming be made more profitable," was discussed by Frank Stiles, who gave a good talk followed by remarks from Messrs. Place, Miller, Sawyer, and Moyses. Beet raising for stock, especially for milk cows, compared with corn—the most of them taking into consideration the work of securing the crop, gave corn the preference. Col. Moyses thought we should make more butter in the winter; educate our hens to lay when eggs are a good price, which he will fully explain at the next meeting. Mr. Place said he would raise sweet corn for milk cows, as he was not fond of getting down on his knees to raise beets.

Dinner was served, which all enjoyed. After a sociable time the president called the meeting to order. Music was called for which was responded to by singing, Mrs. Stiles presiding at the organ. The questions were then resumed.

"Should Woman have the right of Suffrage." The club decided that they should. Col. Moyses gave his receipt for cream cake, which anyone may have by calling at his home on North Chipman street.

Questions were then given out for the next meeting, to be held at E. O. Place's, Feb. 24th. C.

### State Farmers' Institute.

It has been suggested that a mistaken idea may exist in the minds of some to the effect that the farmers' clubs of the county are in some way connected with the county institute. This is an entirely false idea. The institute is the joint property of every citizen of Shiawassee county.

The business men of Owosso are leaving no stone unturned to make the farmers' visit to the city a pleasant one. The beautiful and commodious Congregational church has been procured for the use of the institute. It is in this building that the institute will be held, and not in the Armory as at first announced.

Remember that R. B. Terry will be here the first day of the institute only. His best paper, "Increasing fertility by clover growing," will be given Tuesday morning. Make it a special point to be on hand at 10:30 a. m. to hear this noted man on this most important subject.

This is the last announcement of the institute that will appear. The committees have done their best to provide an acceptable program and to insure a pleasant and profitable outing to all who attend. It now rests with the farmers of Shiawassee county to say whether the institute shall be a success. If you, fellow farmer, your wife and sons and daughters attend, the success of the institute is absolutely assured. Let us each and all do our best to make February 8th and 9th long to be remembered as the date of a highly successful and profitable institute.

### Michigan Veterans.

The following summary of the annual report of Col. C. V. R. Pond, assistant adjutant-general of the Michigan G. A. R. will be of interest to every veteran:

There are 379 posts in good standing in the department, with 15,726 members; six posts with a membership of 116 failed to report; 2,984 members are on suspended list, being a reduction of over 700 from the previous year; eight posts have been organized; six posts have been disbanded; 640 new members have been mustered; 711 members have been reinstated; 109 have been honorably discharged; 338 have died.

Had the six posts delinquent gotten in their reports in time for this report, the showing would have been that the loss by death was partly overcome by gains. This is a remarkable showing, and very gratifying to the colonel, who has been earnest in his efforts to keep the losses confined to those by death: \$30,442.63 has been paid into the various post funds; \$19,990.99 has been expended for relief and general expenses; \$11,823.96 is the cash balance in hands of post quartermaster; \$32,167.33 is the value of real estate owned by posts; \$41,344.13 is the value of other post property; \$85,235.42 represents the total value of all post property and funds.

### Union Plains.

C. E. Welch and wife Sundayed at B. S. Fosket's. The remains of Mrs. Van Tuyl, of Flint, formerly of Brancroft, were interred here on Friday—Mr. F. P. Elwell, of Owosso, was at B. S. Fosket's on Friday—A. E. Root lost a valuable horse by drowning, Friday while drawing ice. A thin ice had formed where ice had been previously cut, which Mr. Root did not notice as it was covered with snow, so he unsuspectingly drove on the ice, when both of the horses broke through. He was alone and was unable to save more than one of the horses—L. C. Fosket will work Joseph Orlieb's farm the coming summer—Chris. Drake has a new cutter—B. S. Fosket and wife and E. D. Welch and wife visited at Rev. C. W. Barnum's in Morrice, Wednesday.

### Laingsburg.

Mrs. Calkins lectured at the M. E. church Sunday evening and at the Congregational church Monday evening, Jan. 31st. In the interests of the W. C. T. U.—Mrs. Wm. Sowersley has just returned from Charlotte where she had a cancer successfully removed by Dr. Geo. E. Lilly. William Lee, Geo. Pope, and Henry Lacey, all of this place have each had a cancer removed by the same doctor—William Montague and Miss Hila Hibbard, of Victor, were united in marriage at the residence of the bride's parents, two miles west of town on February 2d—Philo Bacon, an old respected citizen of our village, 66 years of age, died suddenly of heart failure, Monday morning. He was a former postmaster here, and for the past 10 years had been engaged in the produce business here. He was an exemplary christian man and the community was startled by his sudden death. The funeral was held February 2d, at the Congregational church, of which he was a member and trustee. All business places were closed during the funeral services, and the business men attended the funeral in a body—N. N. Phillips assumed the duties of postmaster on the first of February—We bear considerable comment on the proposition to remove the county seat to Owosso. It is amusing to hear the different opinions expressed on the question. Occasionally a man says the old buildings are good enough. Some say they would have the county seat where it is, out of sympathy for Corunna, but a majority say that the new buildings are needed, and that Owosso is the most available location, and the easiest of access to all people of the county, and especially so to the people of Laingsburg—Laingsburg claims the oldest person in Central Michigan in the person of Grandma Kinney. If her life is spared until the 19th day of March next she will be 103 years of age. She is a christian lady and still enjoys very good health.

The citizens of Owosso will extend a warm welcome to every person in attendance at the Farmers' Institute to be held on Tuesday and Wednesday next at the Congregational church. The program is one of unusual interest to every progressive farmer. Come.

### Owosso Telephone Co.

The organization of a local telephone company was perfected on Friday afternoon last, and it is expected that the work of setting poles and stringing the wire soon be under way. The capital stock of the Owosso Telephone Co. is \$20,000, of which amount but \$12,500 to be sold at present in shares of \$100 each and that sum has been subscribed for by the following stockholders: C. W. Gale 10 shares, Chas. E. Rigley, 10, C. McCormick, 5, A. L. Arnold, 5, J. S. Haggart, 10, E. A. Gould, 10, G. M. and E. O. Dewey, 5, W. M. Kilpatrick, 1, Arthur M. Hume, 3, Adam Decker, 5, Wade B. Caaburn, 1, Tod Kincaid, 10, D. C. Clapp, 6, M. A. Buckmaster and Mary A. Willis, 5, Ellen F. Smith, 5, Marian H. Cooper, 10, William E. Moss, 24.

The stockholders elected as directors Messrs. C. W. Gale, C. McCormick, J. S. Haggart, E. A. Gould, D. C. Clapp, Tod Kincaid and E. O. Dewey. The directors subsequently elected C. W. Gale, president; C. McCormick, vice president; E. O. Dewey, secretary and treasurer.

It is the intention of the company to put in a first-class modern plant, fully equipped with the best telephone on the market and to give patrons the very best service. Connection to Detroit will be made with the line of the New State Telephone Co.

### Burton.

Charles Cline, of West Branch, was the guest of his brother-in-law, W. C. Stiff, Thursday of last week—Miss Eva Craner spent Sunday at E. W. Mason's—C. Farr returned the first of the week, after a short visit in Fargo and Port Huron—The M. P. Aid Society met at the home of Mrs. George Snyder, near Ovid—Wm. Stiff was in Saginaw one day the last of the week—Frank Bonson, of this vicinity was kicked so severely by a horse one day last week, that there are but little hopes of his recovery—J. N. McBride spent a part of the week in Ypsilanti—Mr. and Mrs. D. J. Hicks and two daughters, Misses Blanche and Minnie, of Ann Arbor, and Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Wright and daughter, Miss Sadie, were guests of A. E. Cadz and wife, Monday—The Endeavor meeting Sunday evening will be conducted by G. T. Mason. Topic: "The Christian's Confidence"

Rev. S. S. Fleming, pastor of the M. P. church, received nine members into the church Sunday—Rev. S. S. Fleming left Wednesday for Tiffin, Ohio, to hold revival meetings—Mrs. E. W. Mason and daughter, Miss Anna, spent Wednesday with her father and sister, J. McWilliams and daughter, Miss Sarah—Rev. and Mrs. S. S. Fleming and two daughters, Misses Grace and Edith, were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Jas. Ockerman, Saturday.

### Byron.

We have grand sleighing now, but old Boreas is playing havoc with it by piling the snow into the roads in a heap here and there so as to make travel very laborious in places. It looks as though the chronic grumblers who were saying a few weeks ago that we would not get any sleighing this winter would get enough of it after all—Mrs. J. T. Emmett, of Howell, spent Sunday at J. Sleeth's—Fred Lewis and wife returned Saturday from an extended visit at St. Johns and Ionia—Isaac Crawford, of Detroit, visited at Mrs. Amelia Barnum's the fore part of the week—Postmaster Welch and wife Sundayed at B. S. Fosket's—Miss Nellie Benton is convalescent—A. W. Bunce made a business trip to Grand Rapids last week—M. H. Redmond, of Toledo, Ohio, formerly of Byron, was married last week. Miss Mattie Redmond attended the wedding—Ed Telling and family visited at West Branch last week—Charles Baughman went to Charlotte last week on account of the sickness of his mother—The remains of Jonathan Newman, sent last Friday from Vassar to Byron for burial, by some means were sidetracked at Durand, and undertaker Savage had to drive to Durand for the same—Mrs. C. Kellin, of Owosso, is with her daughter, Mrs. C. J. Williams—A. B. Smith, son of J. S. Smith, while leading one of his father's horses was kicked in the face by the animal, cutting such a gash that five stitches were taken to close the wound—E. D. Welch and wife went to Newberg Saturday—William McDonald spent Sunday with his brother in Detroit—E. D. Welch and wife visited at Rev. C. W. Barnum's, in Morrice, Wednesday—Register J. D. Royce, of Corunna, was in Byron Tuesday—Miss Mabel Savage is again afflicted with St. Vitus dance—Mrs. L. F. Lutz, after nearly recovering from her recent illness, is again reported worse—W. E. Savage has moved to Cohoctah to work in F. E. Close & Co.'s elevator—Mrs. Ruggles has gone to Selma, on account of the serious illness of her mother.

### Ann Arbor Car Shops.

General Manager Ashley, of Toledo, and Supt. Bradley, of Durand, made their regular monthly inspection of the shops on Wednesday. They found every department of work progressing finely.

Rob't Tawse, M. M., was in Toledo on Wednesday on business pertaining to the road.

W. C. Stuart, joint accountant of the Ann Arbor at Toledo, spent Monday and Tuesday with his parents and friends in this city.

Daniel Prendergast, of Durand, made a business call here Tuesday.

Chair car No. 302 has undergone a complete overhauling. It now presents a very gaudy appearance with its new Pullman finish.

The M. & N. E. engine recently brought here for repairs has been completed and will be taken to Manistee tomorrow.

One of the steam shovels is being repaired preparatory for its summer work.

Engineer Corey, of Durand, visited the shops Tuesday.

Lineman Thos. McGrail and Train Master Fohey, of Durand, spent Tuesday at the master mechanic's office.

Chas. Carpenter, machinist helper, is in the University hospital at Ann Arbor. It thought an operation will have to be performed upon him before he can return home.

An air pump for the company's diver at Frankfort has just been completed by J. Tawse.

### Circuit Court.

Since our last report the circuit court has disposed of the following business:

Jas. H. Baxter vs. the Estey Mfg. Co., a replevin case. The defendant secured a judgment for \$303.78. Kilpatrick & Pierpont appeared for the Estey Co.

Dani. Mott vs. the D. & M. railway. Jury disagreed.

W. W. Smith vs. Jessie Badgero. Judgment for plaintiff of six cents and defendant holds property replevined.

Martinius Britten vs. Mich. Central Ry. Judgment for plaintiff of \$2,800. Watson & Chapman were the successful attorneys.

### Death of Mrs. J. M. Bagg.

The death of Mrs. Jane M. Bagg, widow of the late Dr. Bagg, who founded the drug business now carried on by Johnson & Henderson, occurred Sunday afternoon at the home of her sister, Mrs. H. E. Henderson, North Water street. Mrs. Bagg has been an invalid for many years and for months past entirely helpless. She bore her sufferings with a christian fortitude that was remarkable. Her age was 85 years. Funeral services were held at the home Wednesday morning and the remains taken to Pontiac for burial. Rev. J. C. Cromer officiated.

### Notice.

We, the undersigned, do hereby agree to refund the money on two 25 cent bottles of Baxter's Mandrake Bitters, if it fails to cure constipation, biliousness, sick headache, or any of the diseases for which it is recommended. Also will refund the money on a 50 cent bottle of Down's Elixir, if it does not cure any cough, cold, croup, whooping cough, or throat or lung difficulty. We also guarantee one 25 cent bottle of either of the above to prove satisfactory or money refunded.—W. E. Collins & Co., Parkhill & Son, L. M. Watson, Sprague & Co.

Royal makes the food pure, wholesome and delicious.



### Cost of Free Text Books.

From the Cadillac News and Express: CLAM LAKE DISTRICT NO. 1.

EDITOR NEWS AND EXPRESS:—Dear Sir: There has been so much said of late on the cost of our text books that I desire to give you and the public the actual results of the free text book system, as ascertained by the experience of this district. We not only furnish books, but slates, pencils, pens, ink and paper:

COST OF TEXT BOOKS FOR FIRST YEAR FROM	
Sept. '94 to Sept. '95	\$64.28
No. of pupils enrolled	42
Average cost per pupil	1.52
Valuation of District for '94	\$102,510.00
Making addition to tax assessment for this year, about eleven-twentieths of a mill on each dollar.	

SECOND YEAR.	
From Sept. '94 to Sept. '95	\$23.79
No. pupils enrolled	40
Average cost per pupil	59 cents

THIRD YEAR.	
From Sept. '95 to Sept. '96	\$13.69
Pupils enrolled	40
Average cost per pupil	34 cents

FOURTH YEAR.	
From Sept. '96 to '97	\$9.45
Pupils enrolled	32
Average cost per pupil	29 cents
Valuation of Dist. 1897	\$121,350.00
Making text book assessment for this year, about eleven-twentieths of a mill.	

Cost of each pupil for a year, 1 year—\$2.60  
Average cost of each pupil, 1 year—95

In the face of these figures can a fair-minded person dispute the economy of "the free text book system." Not only do we get a discount on the books, but the district can buy all necessary material for school work at greatly reduced prices. Last, but not least, each pupil has all the necessary books, and is ready for work the first morning.

Yours for the advancement of education,  
GENNETTE E. CHICK, Teacher.

### Death of Dr. H. A. Brockway.

The death of Dr. H. A. Brockway occurred on Friday evening last at the home of his daughter, Mrs. H. S. Hadsall. The Dr. had been seriously sick for four weeks and the result was not unexpected. Dr. Brockway was born in Dansville, N. Y., in 1820, came to Michigan when a young man, was a student in the medical department of the University in 1851-52, located at Vassar, Mich., in 1856 and practiced there until 1891 when he removed to Owosso with Hon. and Mrs. H. S. Hadsall, with whom he had made his home for several years after his wife died. Since coming to this city the Dr. lived a quiet life, forming but few acquaintances; however, those who knew him esteemed his friendship highly.

Brief funeral services were held Monday afternoon at the house by Rev. John Sweet and the remains were taken to Vassar for burial.

Lansing Republican: Mr. and Mrs. Frank G. Oatman and the Misses Villa and Ora Oatman were the guests of honor at a prettily appointed dinner given last evening by Mrs. J. M. Hammond, 216 Pine street south, assisted by Miss Hattie Hammond. Covers were laid for fifteen. After the dinner the guests repaired to the home of Mrs. L. M. Bird and enjoyed an evening of music and recitations by Mrs. John Price and Miss Jessie Bird. The numerous friends of the guests of honor regret very much their departure from the city, and the loss to Lansing is Owosso's gain.

Supt. F. R. Hathaway, of the Flint Schools spent Thursday in Owosso, looking over our excellent schools. In the afternoon he gave a very entertaining as well as instructive talk to the pupils of the high school and those of the eight grade on "Alaska, its Gold Fields and Glaciers." Mr. Hathaway visited many of the points in Alaska a year ago which have since become famous by reason of the gold discoveries. The pupils appreciated his talk very much. Mr. Hathaway gave the teachers a splendid address upon the "Ideal Teacher."

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